



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Fire Island National Seashore News Release

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### National Seashore Announces Plans for Barrett Beach



Newly completed Barrett Beach dock in October 2003 (left), and covered by ice during the Great South Bay ice-over. February 2004 was a particularly harsh month for Fire Island National Seashore. Ice piles up to nine feet deep severely damaged the park's new Barrett Beach pier and delayed the opening of the Sailors Haven facilities.

*NPS Photos*

*Patchogue, NY*—The winter of 2004 was one of the harshest that Fire Island has experienced. At Fire Island National Seashore, ice damage was extensive and widespread, with more than \$300,000 worth of damage sustained at park facilities at Patchogue, Old Inlet, Watch Hill, Barrett Beach, Sailors Haven, and the Fire Island Lighthouse.

Fire Island National Seashore received \$61,000 in storm damage funds to repair the dock at Barrett Beach. In addition to the storm damage work the dock will be refitted to better accommodate handicapped access from the ferry and from the floating boat dock. Due to endangered species management issues (winter flounder habitat and piping plover nesting) the re-building of the dock will not be able to begin until this fall and will proceed into the winter. All work is expected to be completed by the spring of 2005.

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As a result of the winter storm and ice damage, concession services were not able to open because boats could not dock and the final work could not be completed. With the completion of the dock repairs, and the issuance of the new concession contract expected this winter, the National Park Service estimates that concession services for Barrett Beach will open on May 14, 2005.

The new concession operation will include ferry access from both Patchogue and Sayville, and the opening of the Barrett Beach food/convenience goods concession. Limited food and drink items will be available along with convenience items, ice, suntan lotion, etc. The building includes new restroom facilities and outdoor showers.

For more information about Fire Island National Seashore, visit the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis).



As viewed facing north, the Barrett Beach dock was found covered by piles of ice on February 23, 2004 (above left). The resultant damage was evident in photo (right) taken on March 25, 2004.

*NPS Photos*